

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1975

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NS

SUBJECT: PRE-IG REVIEW OF FY 1976-77 SURINAM CASP

REF: A. PARAMARIBO A-11, FEBRUARY 11, 1975 B/ STATE 72334

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS APPLY TO PROPOSED CHANGES OUR CASP SUBMISSION DISCUSSED IN REF B:
2. DELETIONS AND ALTERATIONS PROPOSED IN RESPECT TO MILITARY MATTERS AND U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE LEADS US TO CONCLUSION REVIEWERS UNDER MISTAKEN IMPRESSION WE ADVOCATING ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE HERE WITHIN CASP TIME FRAME AND THAT WE PREDICTING HOSTILE ARMED EFFORTS TO INTERFERE WITH U.S. ACCESS TO STRATEGIC BAUXITE SUPPLIES LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE DURING CASP PERIOD. THAT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION.
3. WHOLE THRUST OF OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE WAS THAT WE SHOULD AS A CONTINGENCY MATTER DEVOTE SOME EFFORT AND MODEST RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH SURINAM MILITARY, AND TO MAINTENANCE OF POLITICAL CLIMATE RECEPTIVE TO INSERTION OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE TO SAFEGUARD BAUXITE SHOULD THE NEED EVER ARISE AT SOME INDEFINITE FUTURE TIME. THE EXAMPLE OF A SPREADING CONFLICT HAVING ITS ROOTS IN THE NEAR EASTERN SITUATION WAS INTENDED AS AN ILLUSTRATIVE ASSUMPTION, NOT RPT NOT AS A PROPHECY OF IMMINENT ACTION AGAINST OUR STRATEGIC BAUXITE INTERESTS

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IN SURINAM.

4. THROUGHOUT OUR DISCUSSIONS OF MILITARY AND U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE MATTERS RUNS THE IDEA THAT ASSISTANCE OR ACTIONS SHOULD BE MODEST, LOW-KEY, THE OPPOSITE OF FOSTERING MAJOR DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES PSYCHOLOGICALLY OR MATERIALLY. WE CONTINUE BELIEVE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS THIS SPHERE ARE REALISTIC, PRUDENT, AND VERY MUCH IN KEEPING WITH LOW PROFILE WE AGREE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED HERE.

5. IN RESPECT TO DELETION OF ISSUE 1, I AM PUZZLED BY RATIONALE WHICH SEEMS TO HOLD THAT SINCE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE TREATED LAST YEAR THEY ARE NO LONGER ISSUES THIS YEAR. (PARA 4, REF B). MOREOVER, CONVICTION THAT WE WILL NOT PROVIDE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN SURINAM AND THAT WE SHOULD REFRAIN FROM "ACTIVE USG INVOLVEMENT" IN RACIAL PROBLEMS HERE IS CITED AS SUPPORTING THIS RATIONALE. BUT WE DID NOT RPT NOT ADVOCATE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ROLE IN USUAL SENSE, ONLY A SMALL SDAF FOR PURELY POLITICAL PURPOSES, WHICH COULD HARDLY BLUNT OUR MAIN THRUST WHICH IS TO ENCOURAGE DUTCH TO PLAY THE MAJOR ROLE IN ALL ASSISTANCE MATTERS. LIKEWISE, WE DID NOT ADVOCATE ANYTHING AS EXTREME AS USG ENTANGLEMENT IN SURINAM RACIAL MATTERS, IMPLYING A VIRTUAL DEMARCHE; WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND ARE INFORMAL, CASUAL, CAUTIONARY REMARKS TO FRIENDS AMONG LOCAL LEADERS. MOST FSO'S WITH LONG SERVICE IN RACIALLY PLURALISTIC LDCS HAVE OBSERVED FIRSTHAND THE DANGERS OF POLARIZATION AND THIS EXPERIENCE, WE FEEL, LOGICALLY SHOULD BE DRAWN UPON AND VOCALIZED IN AN INOFFENSIVE WAY.

6. REGARDING PRE-IG CONCERN THAT RECOMMENDATIONS LAST PARA PAGE 7 OF CASP NOT PRACTICABLE AND POSSIBLY CONTRARY FAA RESTRICTIONS, WE AWARE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM HAS TERMINATED BUT UNDERSTOOD FBI ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE. IF WE ARE WRONG, RECOMMENDATION IS, OF COURSE, WITHDRAWN.

7. DECISION HAVING BEEN MADE LAST YEAR TO RAISE CONGEN TO EMBASSY, WE CAST ISSUE 3 AS QUESTION OF MISSION STAFFING AND VISIBILITY, INCLUDING OTHER AGENCIES. CONCUR THAT THIS QUESTION, WHICH NONETHELESS SHOULD BE FLAGGED, PERHAPS BETTER RESTS WITH BUREAU.

8. FBO DOLLAR RESOURCES FOR FY76 WERE PREDICATED ON OUR BELIEF
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THAT THERE STILL CHANCE THAT FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR FBO CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENCE FOR AMBASSADOR. WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED OTHERWISE.

9 WE APPRECIATE HAVING OPPORTUNITY COMMENT ON PRE-IG REVIEW AND URGE THAT PROPOSED DELETIONS AND ALTERATIONS WE HAVE QUESTIONED HEREIN BE CAREFULLY RECONSIDERED.

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